

# WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

UPDATE 98-14

TO:

County Departments of:  
Community Programs  
Human Services  
Social Services  
County Mental Health Coordinators  
County-owned Mental Health/  
Substance Abuse Clinics  
County Substance Abuse Coordinators  
County/Tribal Aging Units  
HMOs and Other Managed Care  
Programs  
Tribal Human Service Facilitators

## **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Now Expanded to *the Home or Community***

### **Biennial budget adds new benefit**

Provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 27, the state biennial budget, authorized expanding Medicaid mental health and substance abuse (alcohol and other drug abuse) outpatient services for adult recipients to *the home or community*. Wisconsin Medicaid will pay participating county or tribal agencies only the federal funds for these services. The county or tribe must provide the local matching funds for these services [Section 49.46 (2) (b) 6 fm, Wis. Stats.].

### **Mental health and substance abuse services *in the home or community***

Mental health and substance abuse services *in the home or community* are the same mental health and substance abuse outpatient services currently covered by Wisconsin Medicaid (refer to HFS 107.13 (2) and (3), Wis. Admin. Code).

"Home or community" is defined as those locations that are therapeutically necessary for the recipient, e.g., a person's home, senior citizen center. The following locations are not covered:

- Hospital.
- Hospital outpatient clinic.
- Nursing home.
- Outpatient facility.
- Provider's office.
- Residential treatment facility.
- School.
- Site where a "twelve-step" program is held immediately before, during, and after.

**We're sending this information now so county and tribal agencies may obtain a county board or tribal council resolution that gives approval to provide the local matching funds. The local matching funds are needed to obtain federal funds for services that agencies might be presently providing with only local funds.**

### **First step: county or tribal agency needs to obtain resolution**

An interested county or tribal agency needs to obtain a county board or tribal council resolution that states that the county or tribe agrees to provide the state matching funds needed to provide Medicaid mental health and substance abuse services *in the home or community*. Wisconsin Medicaid will require a copy of this resolution as part of Medicaid certification for this benefit since the county or tribal agency must provide the local matching funds. The requirements for local matching funds are the same used for certain Medicaid services such as community support programs, case management, and crisis intervention.

### **More information coming soon**

Wisconsin Medicaid will be sending information on what a county or tribal agency needs to do to obtain Medicaid certification and information about coverage and billing requirements in the next several months.

POH 1602